



Talking Points Renewable Energy Summit

Gov. Janice K. Brewer
Thursday, February 11, 2010

Thank you, Mike. I am sure most of you know Mike Anable, and know how fortunate we are to have him on our team – on Arizona's team.

Thanks to each of you for taking time to be here today.

It's fitting that we are meeting in a historic building – in one of the world's leading research universities.

Because what we are doing may very well change the course of Arizona HISTORY, and it will involve some substantial RESEARCH to do it right.

As you might know, I am determined to find ways that help ensure an environmentally and economically sustainable future for Arizona. The two tie together in a remarkable way through the advancement of our renewable energy opportunities.

It is self evident that we live in a sunny place. And we know that we can capture our abundant sunshine and use it to supplement -- and someday even replace -- other energy supplies.

But, having the sunshine and having the technology to harness it is only part of the story. The rest of the story – which has yet to be written in any significant way -- is how we do it, and how fast we do it.

In both pursuits, I very much hope Arizona can be the NATION'S leader. In fact, I want us to be the GLOBAL leader.

The great news is that Arizona already is recognized as one of the best places to engage in renewables.

We've earned that reputation by keeping regulation reasonable, by watching our tax structure, and by having an underlying system that functions well. Industry insiders will tell you Arizona is already ahead of the game.

Still, we can always do better. Our immediate goal has got to be to take our natural assets and make even more of them by really AMPING UP their development and production and use. That's what makes your presence here today so promising.

I can't think of another time when federal, state and local agencies have convened in a room to focus specifically and concretely on fostering an hospitable environment for an industry.

But here we ARE today, doing just that. Here we are to ensure that we create as seamless a process as we can, that we avoid overlap, duplication and waste, that we reduce uncertainty and that we find ways to be creative and flexible.

And the beauty of it all is that our efforts are NOT being invested in a fad. I've got to tell you, renewables are here to stay!

So, today's efforts are not just to get some panels on the ground today, or some windmills spinning in the near term, our efforts today are intended for a long-term, statewide structure of clean energy locations, production and transmission -- well into the future.

I especially want to thank State BLM Director Jim Kenna, who was largely responsible for proposing this meeting today.

I also want to thank President Crow for his enthusiasm in agreeing to be our host and to offer his immense resources to carry on this important crusade for Arizona's future.

But, again, most of all I want to thank each of you. Though it's almost a cliché to say, "We can make it work, if we work together," in this case, it's the plain truth. In fact, the ONLY way we can make it work is if we work together.

Michael, again, thank you for your hospitality. Now, we'd love to hear YOUR thoughts on today's meeting....